

said input signal containing a first data stream including g values of bit patterns and a second data stream, where g is an integer number, and

the modulated signal having symbols, each of which is representing one of m signal points in a vector space diagram, where m is an integer number and the vector space diagram includes an I axis and a Q axis extending in directions perpendicular to each other,

said modulator operable to divide said m signal points into g signal point groups, assign the g values of the first data stream to the g signal point groups respectively, assign data of the second data stream to signal points of each of the g signal point groups, and select the signal points in the vector space diagram according to said input signal, so that:

said m signal points are distinguishable from one another in the vector space diagram by a first set of thresholds dividing the vector space diagram into m regions, and the g signal point groups are distinguishable from one another in the vector space diagram by a second set of thresholds dividing the vector space diagram more coarsely than the first set of thresholds into g regions,

signal points in each of said signal point groups are allocated in the vector space diagram at equal intervals,

a distance in the vector space diagram between any closest two signal points of any adjacent two signal point groups is  $2\delta \times n$ , where n is a shift value which is more than 1 and  $2\delta$  represents a distance in the vector space diagram between any adjacent two signal points of the m signal points when the m signal points are allocated in the vector space diagram at equal intervals in the I axis and Q axis directions of the vector space diagram, and

said signal transmission apparatus operable to transmit an information of the value m.

14. A signal transmission apparatus of claim 13,

wherein the second set of thresholds are the I and Q axis of the vector space diagram.

15. A signal receiving apparatus comprising:

- a demodulator operable to demodulate a received signal to obtain a reconstructed data,

said received signal having symbols, each of which is representing one of m signal points in a vector space diagram, where m is an integer number and the vector space diagram includes an I axis and a Q axis extending in directions perpendicular to each other, the m signal points being divided into g signal point groups each containing m/g signal points, where g is an integer number, and

said reconstructed data containing a first data stream including g values of bit patterns which are assigned to the g signal point groups and a second data stream including m/g values of bit patterns which are assigned to the m/g signal points of each of the g signal point groups;

said demodulator operable to distinguish the m/g signal points in each of the g signal point groups by a first set of thresholds and reconstruct data of the second data stream corresponding to values of the distinguished m/g signal points in each of the g signal point groups and operable to distinguish the g signal point groups from one another by a second set of thresholds and reconstruct data of the first data stream corresponding to values of the distinguished g signal point groups; wherein:

said m signal points are distinguishable from one another in the vector space diagram by means of the first set of thresholds dividing the vector space diagram into m regions, and the g signal point groups are distinguishable from one another in the vector space diagram by means of the second set of thresholds dividing the vector space diagram more coarsely than the first set of thresholds into g regions.

signal points in each of said signal point groups are allocated in the vector space diagram at equal intervals;

a distance in the vector space diagram between any closest two signal points of any adjacent two signal point groups is  $2\delta \times n$ , where n is a shift value which is more than 1 and  $2\delta$  represents a distance in the vector space diagram between any adjacent two signal points when the m signal points are allocated in the vector space diagram at equal intervals in the I axis and Q axis directions of the vector space diagram;

said signal receiving apparatus operable to extract an information of the value m from the received signal.

16. A signal receiving apparatus of claim 15,  
wherein the second set of thresholds are the I and Q axis of the vector space diagram.
17. A signal transmission method comprising:  
- modulating a carrier wave with an input signal to produce a modulated signal, and  
- transmitting the modulated signal,  
said input signal containing a first data stream including g values of bit patterns and a second  
data stream, where g is an integer number, and  
the modulated signal having symbols, each of which is representing one of m signal points  
in a vector space diagram, where m is an integer number and the vector space diagram includes an  
I axis and a Q axis extending in directions perpendicular to each other,  
said modulating including dividing said m signal points into g signal point groups, assigning  
the g values of the first data stream to the g signal point groups respectively, assigning data of the  
second data stream to signal points of each of the g signal point groups, selecting the signal points  
in the vector space diagram according to said input signal, so that:  
said m signal points are distinguishable from one another in the vector space diagram by a  
first set of thresholds dividing the vector space diagram into m regions, and the g signal point groups  
are distinguishable from one another in the vector space diagram by a second set of thresholds  
dividing the vector space diagram more coarsely than the first set of thresholds into g regions,  
signal points in each of said signal point groups are allocated in the vector space diagram at  
equal intervals,  
a distance in the vector space diagram between any closest two signal points of any adjacent  
two signal point groups is  $2\delta \times n$ , where n is a shift value which is more than 1 and  $2\delta$  represents a  
distance in the vector space diagram between any adjacent two signal points when the m signal points  
are allocated in the vector space diagram at equal intervals along the I and Q axis of the vector space  
diagram, and  
said signal transmission method further including transmitting an information of the value m.

18. A signal transmission method of claim 17,  
wherein the second set of thresholds are the I and Q axis of the vector space diagram.
19. A signal receiving method comprising:  
- demodulating a received signal to obtain reconstructed data,  
said received signal having symbols, each of which is representing one of m signal points in  
a vector space diagram, where m is an integer number and the vector space diagram includes an I axis  
and a Q axis extending in directions perpendicular to each other, the m signal points being divided  
into g signal point groups each containing m/g signal points, where g is an integer number, and  
said reconstructed data containing a first data stream including g values of bit patterns which  
are assigned to the g signal point groups and a second data stream including m/g values of bit patterns  
which are assigned to the m/g signal points of each of the g signal point groups;  
said demodulating including distinguishing the m/g signal points in each of the g signal point  
groups by a first set of thresholds and for reconstructing data of the second data stream  
corresponding to values of the distinguished m/g signal points in each of the g signal point groups and  
distinguishing the g signal point groups from one another by a second set of thresholds and for recon-  
structing data of the first data stream corresponding to values of the distinguished g signal point  
groups; wherein:  
said m signal points are distinguishable from one another in the vector space diagram by the  
first set of thresholds dividing the vector space diagram into m regions, and the g signal point groups  
are distinguishable from one another in the vector space diagram by the second set of thresholds  
dividing the vector space diagram more coarsely than the first set of thresholds into g regions,  
signal points in each of said signal point groups are allocated in the vector space diagram at  
equal intervals;  
a distance in the vector space diagram between any closest two signal points of any adjacent  
two signal point groups is  $2\delta \times n$ , where n is a shift value which is more than 1 and  $2\delta$  represents a  
distance in the vector space diagram between any adjacent two signal points when the m signal points

are allocated in the vector space diagram at equal intervals in the I axis and Q axis directions of the vector space diagram;

said signal receiving method further including extracting an information of the value m from the received signal.

20. A signal receiving method of claim 19,

wherein the second set of thresholds are the I and Q axis of the vector space diagram.